

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-20 SSO-00 ISO-00 NSCE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 USIE-00 NEA-10 IO-14 PM-07 DODE-00 EUR-25

EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 /114 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 038835

TOSEC 124

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: REPORTAGE OF TRAVELING PRESS, TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 26

1. NYT NOT DELIVERED TO DEPT OWING TO NY-WASHINGTON
TRANSPORT COLLAPSE.

2. WASHPOST (BERGER) HAS 600 WORDS INSIDE (P21) EX-LONDON
PARAPHRASING US OFFICIALS TRAVELING WITH THE SECRETARY'S
PARTY TO EFFECT THAT HAK EXPECTS ONLY MINIMAL PROGRESS
TOWARD ISRAELI-SYRIAN DISENGAGEMENT. REPORTS ONE OFFICIAL
RATES CHANCES "NONEXISTENT" (IN QUOTES) THAT ACTUAL
DISENGAGEMENT COULD BE ACHIEVED DURING SECRETARY'S TRIP,
BUT GOES ON TO NOTE THAT SIMILARLY MODEST EXPECTATIONS
PROJECTED AT START OF HAK'S LAST TOUR DRAMATICALLY OVER-
TAKEN BY SUEZ DISENGAGEMENT. STORY TURNS TO LENGTHY
ANALYSIS OF THE CHANGED AND MORE COMPLEX SITUATION,
SECRETARY MUST DEAL WITH IN CURRENT DIPLOMATIC EFFORT,RTS)
CITING THREE POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS (NOTED IN EARLIER REPORTS)
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OUTLINED BY TRAVELING OFFICIALS. THEY ALSO SAID HE CAN BE

EXPECTED TO MAKE ANOTHER TRIP TO THE AREA IN 3-4 WEEKS AFTER SYRIAN-ISRAELI TALKS PROGRESS TO CERTAIN POINT, NOT OTHERWISE EXPLAINED. THESE OFFICIALS SAY HAK RECOGNIZES NEED TO GET AWAY FROM TAKING DIRECT HAND IN EVERY ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATION BUT AGREE THAT FEELS HE MUST DO AT

LEAST AS MUCH TO HELP ALONG SETTLEMENT ON GOLAN FRONT AS HE DID AT SUEZ. STORY THEN LINKS MOVEMENT ON GOLAN TO TERMINATION OF OIL EMBARGO. REPORTS US OFFICIALS IN PARTY TAKING ISSUE WITH ALLEGATION PRESIDENT ERRED IN HIS REFERENCES TO EMBARGO IN STATE OF UNION. THESE OFFICIALS INSIST LANGUAGE PRESIDENT USED WORKED OUT WITH "FRIENDLY" ARAB GOVERNMENTS, WHILE IMPLICITLY ACKNOWLEDGING THAT HIS REMARKS MAY HAVE DELAYED A LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO. SAME OFFICIALS ALSO SAID SYRIAN DISENGAGEMENT IMPORTANT IN GETTING EXTENSION BEYOND APRIL 24 OF UN FORCE IN SINAI, TERMINATION OF WHICH WOULD BE "SERIOUS SETBACK" (IN QUOTES).

3. WASHSTAR (JERRY O) HAS BRIEF INSIDE STORY (P4) TOPPED BY FOUR-COLUMN PIX OF SECRETARY AND ANNENBERG AND LEADING WITH HAK'S CONCERN THAT TERMINATION OF UNEF WOULD BE SERIOUS SETBACK. GOES ON TO RELATE VARIOUS COUNTERS FIGURING IN UNEF EXTENSION, THEN TURNS TO HAK'S CONVICTION THAT HIS VISIT TO UK WOULD HAVE NO IMPACT ON BRIT ELECTIONS. AS WITH POST STORY CITED AND TRIP CURTAIN-RAISDRS SUMMARIZED IN OUR 037806, BALANCE OF STORY SEEMS STRAIGHT ACCOUNT OF YOUR APPARENT BACKGROUND LINE.

4. BALTSUN'S KEAT ALSO INSIDE (P2) WITH 450 WORDS RAISING POSSIBILITY HIGH IN STORY THAT HAK, WHO HAS BEEN FRONT-STAGE CENTER SINCE OCTOBER IN SEARCH FOR PEACE IN ME, MIGHT CROSS TRAIL OF GROMYKO, WHO IS TO BE IN CAIRO FRIDAY, ABOUT TIME US MISSION REACHING ITS CLIMAX. DWELLS BRIEFLY ON LONDON STOPOVER AND REASONS THEREFORE, THEN TURNS TO US EXPECTATIONS FOR BEGINNING OF GOLAN NEGOTIATIONS. MINIMIZING SAME, STORY QUOTES SENIOR US OFFICIAL AS SAYING, IN DIRECT QUOTES, "THIS IS NOVEMBER, NOT JANUARY", REFERRING TO TIME REQUIRED FOR SUEZ DEAL. SAYS HAK EXPECTS TO OBTAIN ISRAELI POW LIST WITHOUT DIFFICULTY, AND THEN ANALYZES NEGOTIATING SCENARIO UNCLASSIFIED

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OUTLINED IN PREVIOUS REPORTS CITED.

5. NYDN'S CARTER INSIDE (P6) WITH 250 WORDS. HAS SISCO IN SUBORDINATE LEAD SAYING ATMOSPHERE APPEARS FAVORABLE FOR SUCCESS. "I THINK WE HAVE UNPARALLELED OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE PROGRESS," ACC. SISCO. "WE DON'T GO THERE WITH ANY PREPACKAGED PLAN OF OUR OWN. WE GO THERE TO LISTEN (TO BOTH SIDES). I THINK THE WHOLE ATMOSPHERE HAS BEEN MORE

FAVORABLE THAN IT HAS BEEN." IN DISCUSSING SADAT'S
ROLE IN UPCOMING SYRIAN NEGOTIATIONS, CARTER REPORTS
AHAM STORY QUOTING HAK AS CALLING SADAT "ONE OF THE
GREATEST LEADERS I HAVE MET IN MY POLITICAL CAREER."
THE CAIRO NEWSPAPER, SAYS CARTER, CLAIMS SECRETARY MADE
STATEMENT IN TOAST AT GHORBAL'S LUNCH FOR FAHMY.

6. CHITRIB HAD NOTHING FROM STARR AND COVERED INITIAL
DAY OF TRIP FROM WIRES.

7. DITTO HEARST AND WALLACH, JUDGING FROM ONLY PAPER
AVAILABLE TO US.

8. WIRES (AP, UPI) BOTH LIGHT ON ANALYSIS AND LIMITING
THEMSELVES TO DEBRIEF OF HAK'S LONDON DISCUSSIONS. BOTH
RETOPPED STORIES WITH HIS DAMASCUS ARRIVAL FOR OVERNITERS.
UPI HAS TWO SIDEBARS, ONE FROM JERUSALEM QUOTING EBAN'S
INSISTENCE THAT SECRETARY'S CHANCES FOR SUCCESS DEPEND
ON SYRIA, THE OTHER FROM CAIRO SAYING HE WILL SPEND 22
HOURS THERE ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, WITH MOST TIME DEVOTED
TO TALKS WITH SADAT.

9. COVERAGE OF TV EVENING NEWS SHOWS TO FOLLOW BY
SEPTTEL. CASEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE038835
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JFKING:HHB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974025/aaaaaere.tel
Line Count: 139
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 FEB 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <03 DEC 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTAGE OF TRAVELING PRESS, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26
TAGS: OVIP, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: DAMASCUS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005